

# The Baptist Record

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## Racism apology extended by SBC to African Americans



**RECONCILIATION EFFORT INTRODUCED** — Three Southern Baptist leaders meet with reporters to introduce a proposed resolution on racial reconciliation June 19, the day before the opening of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. They are (left to right): Gary Frost, SBC second vice president and pastor of Rising Star Church in Youngstown, Ohio; Charles Carter, chairman of the SBC resolutions committee and pastor of Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, Ala.; and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. (BP photo by Van Payne)

ATLANTA (BP) — Voting overwhelmingly to ask forgiveness for racism from African Americans, messengers to the sesquicentennial meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention stated June 20:

"We apologize to all African Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime, and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously."

"This is an historic moment in our life as we celebrate our... sesquicentennial," said Charles T. Carter, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, as he urged the messengers to approve the committee's unanimous recommendation. "We feel under God we have a unique opportunity in this historic moment.... This could be Southern Baptists' finest hour."

Following the vote, Gary Frost, SBC second vice president and African-American pastor of Rising Star Church, Youngstown, Ohio, accepted the apology of the convention, noting he could not speak for all African Americans or African-American Christians.

But, he said: "I do speak on behalf of all those African-American believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who are committed to be obedient to the Word

of God and long to see healing and unity in the body of Christ," said Frost.

"On behalf of my black brothers and sisters, we accept your

wording the resolution, asked the assembly to join hands as he led in prayer.

"Father, we believe that you're going to do a great work," Frost prayed. "Dear God, we're asking that you would bring hundreds and thousands and even millions into the body of Christ — not necessarily into the Southern Baptist Convention, but into the body of Christ — so that when Christ returns, he can say to us, 'Servants of God, well done. Enter into the joy of the Lord.'"

Earlier, Anita Renfro, a messenger from Park Place Church, Brandon, Miss., had made a motion to close debate after comments by four messengers, saying, "I believe that any further discussion on this issue will only look like stalling.... It will not reflect well on Southern Baptists. Therefore, I move the question." Her

motion was overwhelmingly approved.

The subsequent vote was at least 95% favorable, according to numerous observers' estimates.

The resolution is not the SBC's first resolution against racism, but it is the first to confront the slavery issue in the SBC's history and to apologize to African Americans specifically.

### Hispanics broaden membership

ATLANTA (BP) — In action its leaders described as historic, the Hispanic Southern Baptist Fellowship voted to incorporate and to become a fellowship of churches, not just pastors, at its pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 17-18.

The unanimous vote means the fellowship will begin work on a constitution and bylaws. The group also approved a new name, the National Fellowship of Hispanic Southern Baptist Churches, although it may change because of widespread dissatisfaction with it, a leader said.

"We're going to become the strongest Baptist Hispanic fellowship in the world, both numerically and with dollars," said Rafael DeArmas, newly-elected president of the fellowship. "And we're going to do missions work, and we're not going to be hamstrung by rules and by boundaries. The whole world is going to be our field."

Such growth can be in the future of not only Hispanics, but other ethnic groups, said Russell Begaye, director of language extension at the Home Mission Board.

In a future where the majority of the U.S. population will be ethnic, mega-churches "will be ethnic churches," Begaye said after the Hispanic fellowship meeting.

There are 3,478 Hispanic Southern Baptist churches and missions with about 350,000 members.

apology, and we extend to you our forgiveness in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," Frost said. "... We pray that the genuineness of your repentance will be reflected in your attitudes and in your actions. We forgive you for Christ's sake."

Frost, who worked with the Resolutions Committee and the Christian Life Commission in

### Straight and narrow

Following Christ sometimes feels like walking a tightrope without a net. Just ask Tino Wallenda, a member of the legendary Wallenda family of tightrope walkers. In what must be one of the most interesting ways ever devised to share a personal testimony, Tino walks the rope high above the ground while explaining his struggle to find Christ. He gave his testimony just that way recently at First Church in Franklin, Tenn., as reported in *The Tennessean* newspaper in Nashville. Standing on the high wire above 3,000 people, Tino said he tried to work his way to heaven and prove himself worthy of God, but he finally realized he would be unworthy no matter what he did on his own. "I saw that I was a sinner. I had missed the mark," he said. After accepting Christ, however, Tino noted that his life, like his skill at walking the rope, began to take on more confidence. "As you go, it begins to get easier. I'm not up here alone. Life is just as fragile for you as it is for me," he said. Wallenda received an extended ovation after his testimony as he made his way to the ground.

### Interacting

"This is so cool!" is not exactly the type of highbrow discussion one might expect to overhear while walking past a master's-level seminary classroom, but students were on the edge of their seats recently at New Orleans Seminary as they became the first class to utilize the seminary's new interactive Distance Learning Project. Students watched and listened intently as their professor interacted on a large video screen with other students on the seminary's North Georgia campus during a discussion of the gospel of John. Compressed Interactive Video (CIV) allows the Georgia students to see perfectly what the professor is writing on the board. The most fascinating aspect, however, is the students' ability to query the professor and get his response in real time. Billy K. Smith, seminary provost, said, "CIV will save time and wear and tear on our professors, since they will not have to travel as often to the (seminary's 12 extension) centers. (CIV) will offer extension students on-campus exposure to our resident faculty and students in the learning process."

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

First Church, Pontotoc, honors over 50 people who have held church membership there for more than 50 years — including 98-year old Estelle Furr, a member since 1900 and children's Sunday School teacher for almost 50 years.

#### 20 years ago

A group of 31 Mississippi Baptists travel to Stockholm, Sweden, for the quinquennial meeting of the Baptist World Alliance, helping a state-based travel agency emerge as one of the top agencies for arranging international travel to the event.

#### 50 years ago

The Baptist Pastors Conference of the Mississippi Delta gathers in Drew to engage in a discussion on the topic of "The Race Question," led by pastor Chester Quarles of First Church, Leland.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Gray flags and empty shoes

The 1995 Southern Baptist Convention had to have been one of the more variegated conventions of the past decade. There was suspense, mystery, drama, and music. The registration finally climbed over 20,000 and it never seemed that many people were in the huge dome.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration made you proud to be a Baptist. The committee — which included Earl Kelly, former Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director — did an outstanding job, and the acting and music were superb.

The ceremony closed with gray flags — symbolizing world hunger — flying. The dramatists' empty shoes, symbolizing those once filled by pastors and denominational leaders including Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon, were left on the stage. Who will fill these shoes? (See related article on page 4.)

Then the Program and Struc-

ture Study Committee (PSSC) report heightened the suspense. The SBC Executive Committee met Monday afternoon. Tupelo's Larry Otis made a motion to amend the report to include affirmation of the Woman's Missionary Union. It was defeated 61-3.

The Home Mission Board also sought an amendment to the report. The Executive Committee ignored the request, declaring they favored sending the report unamended to the convention floor.

The Executive Committee has been consistent in underestimating the convention.

On Tuesday, during the PSSC report, the convention spoke loud and clear. The WMU and the HMB amendments were accepted. The final vote to overhaul the denomination was 9,590 for, and 5,357 against it.

Overwhelmingly, the convention adopted a resolution renouncing slavery and the racial roots of Southern Baptists.

Racism was denounced as "deplorable sin," and repentance was offered for "racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously." Baptists in the South seceded from the national Triennial Convention in 1845 after that body decreed it would not appoint slave holders as missionaries.

President Jim Henry presided with fairness and a healthy sense of humor and was elected for a second year. In his address he stressed the importance of missions, Baptist identity, openness to change, and devotion to God. He warned against becoming inbred, and keeping deserving people away from "the table of fellowship and service."

Billy Graham, fighting weakness and disease, made his dramatic appearance to a standing ovation. He is still a favorite son of Southern Baptists and his presence was a great benediction for 150 years of history.

## Magnolia flavor...

## Mississippians at the Convention

Alvin Doyle (former pastor of Puckett Church) and his wife Mary, now missionaries to Nigeria, spoke to the national Woman's Missionary Union convention in Atlanta on June 18, where Dot Pray of Jackson presided at the organ. Her excellent style was evident when you walked into the hall.

"What WMU has meant to me" was the message of 101-year-old Anise McDaniel of Clinton. Her message was well received.

Sandra Nash, WMU state president, also addressed the group and... Amy Rebekah Hamilton of Ecu was presented as being on the Acteens National Advisory Panel.

Kerry Swinford, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, and other Mississippians participated in "Crossover Atlanta" on the Saturday prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. More than 700 professed faith in Christ as teams visited 10,563 homes, had 24 block parties, and attracted 4,552 guests.

Ken Forbus of First Church, Greenville, led the singing at one session of the Pastor's Conference and... Jim Butler of Trinity Church, Southaven, delivered the closing prayer after the convention sermon.

Ernie Sadler, Pascagoula, was re-elected as secretary of the Directors of Missions Fellowship.

And thanks to Anita Renfroe, Crossgates Church, Brandon, who

moved the convention to hasten in adopting the reconciliation statement... and to Wanda Kay Wigley of Raymond whose liquid southern voice stilled the convention as she made a motion for a new mission work among us called "prayer missionaries."

## Rankin reports movement in ministry around the world

ATLANTA — God has given Southern Baptists a vision to take the gospel to the world and "empowered us that we might finish that unfinished task," Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said during his June 21 report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rankin reported he has witnessed in his journeys throughout the world that "God is moving in his providence and power."

— In China, churches overflowed with believers and one pastor worked with 100 groups of believers. No one knows how many Christians are in China, Rankin said, since more have been converted in the past 20 years than throughout all of history.

— In Korea, 4,000 delegates representing 186 countries met to develop strategies for world evangelization.

— Romanian Baptists, through their 1,600 churches, are united in

Rex Yancey of First Church, Pascagoula, was chosen as New Orleans Seminary alumni president.

Others from Mississippi participated in committees, alumni session, music, drama, etc., across Atlanta. Thanks to all who made it such an interesting meeting. — GH

a mission to spread the gospel in other eastern European countries.

— The first Southern Baptist church in Mongolia was started last year.

— In Cambodia, churches are being started in the former killing fields of the Vietnam War.

— Nepal is experiencing record church growth with 150,000 Christians and 41 new churches organizing every week.

— In Nigeria, 437 new churches were established last year.

— In Mexico the number of churches surpassed 1,000.

Rankin reported that baptisms overseas increased 15% and exceeded 300,000 for the first time.

"We were empowered by resources you provided," Rankin told Southern Baptists, acknowledging receipt of the highest Cooperative Program funds and a record \$82.9 million in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds.

'Fellow citizens with God's people'

(Ephesians 2:19 NIV)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday

July 2, 1995

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

## THE FRAGMENTS

## The unfinished task

The theme devotionals at the Convention were unique. W.A. Criswell of Dallas said he has told his wife to take his Bible and put it over his heart when he dies, so that "when the throngs come by..., I want them to see the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God that I preached all the days of my life."

Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City declared that soul competency is perhaps the greatest contribution Baptists have made to religious thought... and James L. Sullivan (who grew up near Tylertown) spoke of the value of the Sunday School in shaping the SBC....

Bob Naylor, former president of Southwestern Seminary, emphasized the churches being empowered. "A New Testament Church is a miracle," said Naylor.

Morris Chapman, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, pointed out the value and beauty of cooperation.... "Empowered in Evangelism" was the subject delivered by Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary... and missions efforts were well emphasized by former WMU executive director Alma Hunt.

"The Laity Empowered" was given by Greg Horton, South Carolina layman... and "Empowered by Education" was the subject for Paige Patterson, Southeastern Seminary president.

The interpretation of the theme added greatly to the historical significance of the convention, and served to remind us that the unfinished task is still before us.

— GH

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
150 YEARSEMPOWERED  
For the unfinished task

Matthew 28:18-20

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Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
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Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson  
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Robert Self, Brookhaven; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Carl White, Clarksdale; Billie Buckley, Petal; Betty Smith, secretary.

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# Mississippi "stands tall" in support of Lottie Moon Offering

By Shannon T. Simpson

Mississippi has been named the top state in per capita giving, percentage increase, and dollar increase in gifts to the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, according to statistics released June 14 by the Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

Mississippi was also ranked third in total dollars given to the offering, trailing only Texas and North Carolina.

In addition, Mississippi was the only state within the Southern Baptist Convention to be named in the top 10 of all four above categories.

The total dollar amount given to the offering in 1994 was \$85,932,597.88, of which Mississippi's gift was \$7,180,416.32. Pro rated to the state's 702,133 Baptist church members, the per capita gift equaled \$10.23, which was \$2.36 more than that given in 1993.

The offering also represented a 32.19% increase over 1993. The second highest percentage increase — 24.77% — came from Baptists in the Utah-Idaho convention. Overall, gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering increased almost 4%.

Texas Baptists' gifts to the

offering totalled slightly over \$13,100,000. North Carolina Baptists gave a little over \$9,100,000.

Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), said: "I'm overwhelmed. I recognize this represents a lot of sacrificial giving on the part of Mississippi Baptists. I am very, very proud and grateful."

The WMU has, at its national, state, and local levels, sponsored and promoted the Christmas season offering to benefit the FMB's overseas efforts in reaching the world with the gospel.

Bobbie Foster, WMU director at Prentiss Church in Jefferson Davis County, says her church has "always been mission minded. We've always had a strong Lottie Moon (response)."

Prentiss Church is representative of smaller churches whose commitment to offerings — such as Lottie Moon and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions — remains the staple of Southern Baptist mission effort support.

Foster says the "350 or so"

members of Prentiss Church often meet their offering goal, and never fail to set a higher one the next year.

"We give quite heavily for our size church," she said. "I think it's

just wonderful that Mississippi has ranked so highly in the Lottie Moon Offering... and that our church is representative" of what smaller churches are doing to

emphasize foreign missions.

"Once again, Mississippi stands tall in support of missions," said FMB vice president Lewis Myers Jr. "I am mighty proud!"

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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### SBC messengers approve restructuring proposals

ATLANTA (BP) — By a vote of almost 2 to 1 after 65 minutes of discussion, Southern Baptist Convention messengers adopted the Program and Structure Study Committee's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring of the SBC.

The June 20 ballot was 9,590 to 5,357 at the SBC sesquicentennial meeting in Atlanta.

Approval of the report reduces the number of SBC entities from 19 to 12 and sets in motion a restructuring process to be implemented by 1997.

Messengers also approved a bylaw change listing the entities in the new SBC structure. The bylaw also must be approved by messengers to the 1996 convention.

Two amendments — affirming the contributions of Woman's Missionary Union and changing wording related to home missions — were approved by messengers. Both were termed by SBC Presi-

dent Jim Henry as "friendly" amendments "for the good of the body and harmony of the convention."

An amendment to continue the Historical Commission, one of three commissions slated to be dissolved, was declared defeated in a show of hands vote. After the vote, a request for a ballot vote was ruled out of order.

Some messengers audibly protested the ruling, indicating they felt the closeness of the vote warranted a ballot.

John Sullivan, a convention parliamentarian and executive director of the Florida Convention, told Baptist Press the amendment failed by approximately a 3-to-1 margin.

Three times during debate, questions about postponing the vote were ruled out of order. In response to a question from Kyle Harmon of Batesburg, S.C., Sullivan noted the motion for a study of convention structure was made at the 1993 convention in Houston and referred to the SBC Executive Committee. He said the restructuring committee then was established and an interim report from that committee was given at the 1994 convention in Orlando, Fla.

"It cannot be postponed beyond this convention," Sullivan said. "We can vote it up or down, but it cannot be postponed beyond this convention."

The amendment affirming WMU was jointly-presented by Roy Smith, executive director of the State Convention of North Carolina, and John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston.

It states: "We recognize and affirm the valued historic relationship with Woman's Missionary Union as an auxiliary to the Convention, and welcome the continued voluntary contribution of Woman's Missionary Union in mobilizing mission prayer support, promoting missions offerings and stimulating the missionary spirit within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Bisagno urged messengers to "pass this amendment, put this issue behind us, lock arms, and get on with winning this

world to Jesus Christ."

Earlier, PSSC Chairman Mark Brister acknowledged he had received questions from Southern Baptists about whether the report gave enough recognition to WMU for its contributions.

"The PSSC unanimously expresses deep gratitude to the WMU," Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., said. "Thank you, WMU, for supporting, giving, and praying for Southern Baptist missions." He said he anticipates "continued support of WMU for Southern Baptist missions."

After the session, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said she was "very satisfied" with the amendment approved by messengers, noting it affirmed WMU's presence and partnership in the denomination.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis proposed three wording changes affecting the work of the new North American Mission Board to be formed by the merger of Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission.

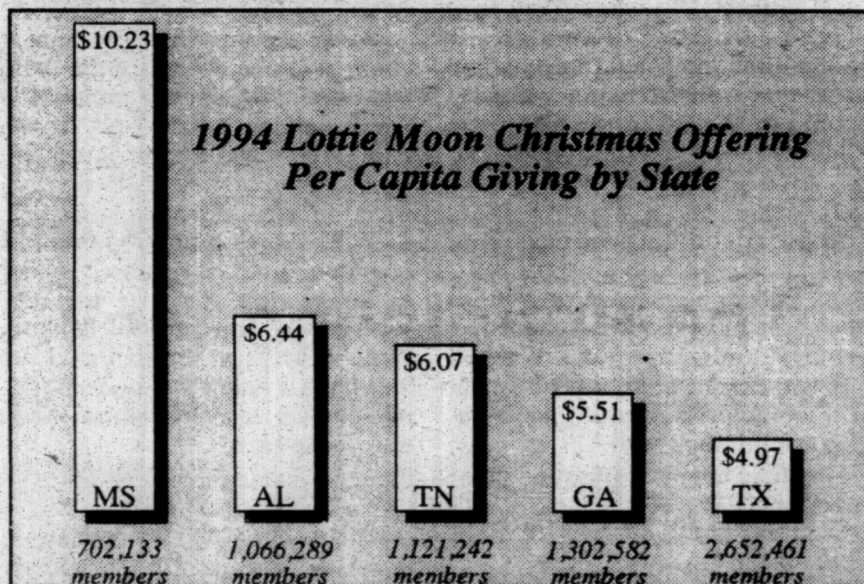
Lewis' proposals affirmed "cooperative" as well as "direct" mission strategies for the NAMB and authorized the NAMB to support shorter-term missionaries as well as career missionaries. A third change in an endnote of the report calls for larger, primarily southern state Baptist conventions to fund "a greater portion of" their evangelism and missions staff and program.

Lewis said the HMB "has more than 1,000 home missionaries in these states. They don't want to be transferred to be state convention missionaries."

In a news conference, Lewis said state conventions want to continue a cooperative missions strategy with the HMB. "They don't want to see the Home Mission Board driven out of the South."

Lewis, RTVC President Jack Johnson, and Brotherhood Commission President James Williams pledged to work together in blending their agencies into the NAMB.

(See SBC on page 7)

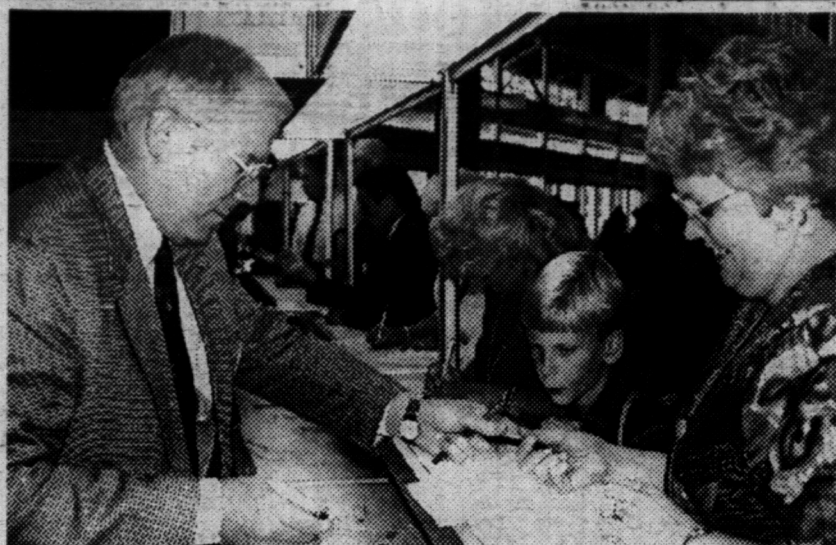


### Southern Baptists convene in Atlanta

More than 20,500 messengers from local churches across the Southern Baptist Convention were called to order in Atlanta's Georgia Dome by SBC President Jim Henry, who presided over the June 20-22 annual meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Mes-

sengers approved a historic racial reconciliation resolution, okayed the first of two required votes on a massive overhaul of the convention bureaucracy, and celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





## Helping hand

Roy Ward (left), member of First Church, Jackson, assists a messenger at the credentials desk at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Atlanta June 20-22. Ward served as a member of the SBC credentials committee, which is charged with verifying the credentials of messengers who may have lost or misplaced qualifying paperwork from their home church. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## OTHER SBC NEWS...

### Mississippians speak from the floor

ATLANTA (BP) — Among 44 motions made from the floor of the convention were three made by Mississippians.

The Foreign and Home Mission boards together were assigned consideration of a motion made by **Wanda Kay Wigley of Raymond** to establish a new mission work among all Southern Baptists titled "prayer missionaries."

The Denominational Calendar Committee will study another motion by Wigley calling for the first Thursday of every May to be named Southern Baptist National Day of Prayer.

The Committee on the Order of Business recommended and the chair moved out of order a request from **L.D. Brown Jr. of Christ Church, Greenwood**, that the convention affirm "... Jesus Christ died for the sins of the entire world...." The chair noted the proposed motion was "a resolution and was submitted after the deadline for receiving resolutions."

### Lotz: World is helpless, but not hopeless

ATLANTA (BP) — Baptists around the world may be in helpless situations, but they are not hopeless because they have Jesus Christ, **Denton Lotz**, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said in his report June 21 to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Baptist World Alliance is a worldwide fellowship of Baptists of 180 conventions/unions with ministry in more than 200 countries and a total membership of 38,542,276 in 150,619 churches and meeting places.

In Liberia, a tragedy affects more than 585,000, leaving them without food, clothing, electricity or water. Yet leaders of the Displaced Baptist Church told Lotz, "We're Christians; we may be helpless but we're not hopeless," he reported.

"What a commentary on the Western world," said Lotz, "We're hopeless, but we're not helpless."

Lotz reported on a visit to the first Baptist church in Nepal, a country closed to the gospel for 200 years, yet now has 20 churches and 35 Baptist missions "because they have hope."

### Mohler defends Calvinist convictions at SBC

ATLANTA (ABP) — Southern Seminary's Abstract of Principles, which has been interpreted as a Calvinist document by President **Albert Mohler**, contains truth that all Southern Baptists can agree on, Mohler said June 20.

Mohler, who affirms a theology known as five-point Calvinism, spoke about his commitment to theological truth several times during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta June 20-22.

**David McNair of Jackson** said he couldn't find Calvinism in his Bible and couldn't understand what Mohler believed.

Mohler responded, "I stand upon the theological convictions upon which my seminary was founded and what the Abstract of Principles says."

He said he would be glad to explain his theological convictions in a one-on-one conversation but could not make a sufficient explanation from the platform in a brief time.

Later that day, a messenger made a motion that the SBC "affirm our belief that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the entire world and offers salvation to every human being," a clear reference to refuting the influence of Calvinist theology.

# Baptism, pageantry highlights Southern Baptists' 150 years

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists were reminded that heated debate, as well as missions, has been part of their history from the beginning, in a theatrical pageant celebrating the convention's 150th anniversary on the first evening of the 1995 meeting.

But it was the living example of their continuing commitment to soul-winning that drew sustained standing applause June 20 when **Bernard Miller**, pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, Griffin, Ga., a new church start and primarily black congregation, baptized his son **Brian** before the crowd.

Actors and actresses in period costumes, as well as narrators, told the story of Southern Baptists. Video showed how Southern Baptists continue to fulfill the Great Commission and the objective of the convention's founding. Choirs, orchestra, soloists, and congregation sang and played the story of salvation and missions.

The primary goal of the celebration was "to focus attention on our founding purpose," doing missions work in the United States and around the world, said **Marshall Walker**, chairman of the sesquicentennial celebration work group.

About half of the 20,000 registered messengers watched in the Georgia Dome as narrators recalled how Baptists from eight Southern states and the District of Columbia gathered in Augusta, Ga., in May 1845 to decide how to improve their missions effectiveness. Slave holders had been rejected as missionaries. The assembly voted to become the Southern Baptist Convention and **W.B. Johnson** was elected president.

The later founding of the Baptist Sunday School Board came only after strong disagreement about its founding had been settled by having leading proponent **J.M. Frost** and leading opponent **J.B. Gambrell** write a joint resolution calling for it.

But it was the emphasis on what is happening today that brought the strongest response from the audience.

Following **Brian Miller's** baptism, Marine chaplain **Mike Langston** told about seeing 51 service members come to know Christ as Savior and searching for an appropriate baptismal pool aboard ship after being called up for the Gulf War. Finally someone found some long metal boxes in the back of the ship. Langston recognized the boxes right away — body transfer cases for anticipated casualties. Filled with water, they worked fine for baptizing a Navy doctor, a Marine major, a fireman from the engine room, and a gunnery sergeant. The audience watched the baptisms on the video screen as Langston gave his testimony.

Next came the baptism of **Dan Harper**, a 13-year-old who made a profession of faith the previous Sunday in First Church, Augusta,

Ga., where the SBC held its founding meeting.

The pageant ended with a challenge to messengers to continue to seek to reach the millions of people in the world who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ. Actors representing historic leaders **J.B. Gambrell**, **R.G. Lee**, **Annie Armstrong**, **Arthur Flake**, **B.B. McKinney**, and **Lottie Moon** gave monologues summing up their contributions and asking who would fill their shoes. They then

stepped out of their shoes, leaving them on the stage.

SBC President **Jim Henry** took the stage to sum up the program, praise God for the past, and challenge Southern Baptists to look to the future. As he stepped out of his shoes and left the stage, a harmonica began playing "Amazing Grace." On succeeding verses, a soloist, the choir and then the congregation joined in the hymn which has long been the unofficial anthem of Southern Baptists.

## MC announces business school's accreditation

Mississippi College (MC) has earned accreditation for its business school, **Howell W. Todd** announced at a news conference June 22 on the school's Clinton campus.

**Todd**, president of the 169-year-old Baptist institution, said the accreditation came more than five years after officials first committed the school to pursuing accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

ACBSP notified MC in May after the spring meeting of its board of commissioners that accreditation had been approved.

"This speaks volumes about how far our business school has come," **Todd** said. "We're proud of what that means not only for the program as it now stands, but for the future as well."

**Lloyd Roberts**, who was appointed dean of the business school three weeks ago, said his student-faculty ratio is about 25 to 1, comparable to other programs certified by ACBSP. Class size in schools driven by research missions is typically larger, he said.

More faculty members will soon be hired, bringing the ratio even lower. A summer program in which students travel to Vienna and London was also recently created to expose students to international finance and economics.

"The accreditation represents a guarantee that the business school at Mississippi College offers a top quality education," **Roberts** said. "It helps assure that students will have a functional understanding of all areas of business when they leave here."

## Henry's second term to be "rallying point"

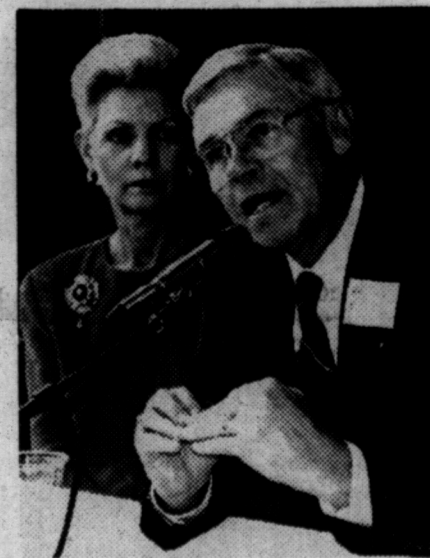
ATLANTA (BP) — Acknowledging that the Southern Baptist Convention has entered a period of reconstruction after a 16-year denominational civil war, SBC President **Jim Henry** pledged June 20 to be a "rallying point" for further SBC unity during his second and final year in office.

The Florida pastor, re-elected without opposition during the first day of the annual meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, said the fact that his state as well as numerous other states apparently have experienced a record number of baptisms and a record increase in giving during the past year indicates to him that the denomination has experienced "some coalescing, some healing, some unifying." The strife has seen the conservative resurgence succeed in steering the denomination onto a more conservative theological path.

"That doesn't mean that everything is right yet" with members of the 15.6-million-member denomination who battled vigorously over control of the denomination's boards and agencies, **Henry** said. "But we may have one of our best years in front of us."

**Henry** likened the denomination to a large ocean liner that "can't turn around fast. But the longer it's in the turn, the more you sense that there's a different spirit and a different attitude."

**Henry** served churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee before going to Orlando's First Church, where he has been for 18 years. **Johnny Hunt**, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga., nominated **Henry**.



Henry and wife Jeanette



# Church Media Library workers set July Gulfshore conference

"An exciting time for Church Media Library (CML) workers is coming to Gulfshore Assembly," according to Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The department will sponsor the Church Media Library Conference on July 27-29 during the Growing Churches Conferences series. (See related article below).

The conference is targeted to provide church media library workers training with study course

credit, new book reviews, and fellowship with other media library workers.

Leaders and workshops will include: Barbara Freese, "Using the Dewey Decimal Classification System" and "Using Sears Subject Headings;" and Stephen Gateley, "The Catalog: Computer or Cards" and "Computer in the Library." Freese and Gateley will also co-teach "How to Select Books."

Freese is lead consultant for the Church Media Library program at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Gateley (author of three books) is consultant in the BSSB's Church Media Library program.

He has been active in the Association Church Media Library Organization (TACMO) serving as director in Arrowhead, Calif., and St. Louis, Mo. He also served as editor of the **Southern Baptist Library Association Newsletter**.

Cost for this two-day conference (two people per room) is \$74.60 per person including meals. For room reservations, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore (601) 452-7261.

For more information on the Church Media Library conference, contact Broadcast Services at (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Legislative alert

Please urge your Congressmen to support House Bill 1833 and Senate Bill 939. These two concurrent pieces of legislation, if passed, will stop the ability of doctors to perform the dilation and extraction ("D and X" or "partial birth") method of abortion. The D and X method is often performed in the 20th through 32nd weeks of pregnancy. Call (202) 224-3121 and ask for your congressman in the House of Representatives, or for Senator Trent Lott or Senator Thad Cochran to register your support for these bills.

## Spots still open in church growth conference series

The first of four two-day Growing Churches Conferences begins at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 6. Conferences will run July 6-8, July 10-12, July 20-22, and July 27-29. Many spaces are still available for participants in all four conferences, according to Larry Salter, coordinator for the events.

The series, sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), is targeted to train lay leaders along with pastors and church staff members.

Each two-day conference will begin with 1:30 p.m. registration

on the first day, include seven sessions, and run through the lunch hour of the third day.

Attendees may choose from workshop topics in each of the seven session time slots, including: men/women on mission, how to discover and use your spiritual gifts, youth outreach ideas, multicultural ministries, and equipping deacons.

Leaders for the conference worship sessions and pastors' conferences will include: Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer; Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson; John McCall of Clinton, former Mississippi College (MC) Bible professor; Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg; and Stan Loyd, music minister at First, Pascagoula, among others.

Maximum cost for any two-day conference (two people per room) is \$74.60 per person, including meals. For details or room reservations, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore, (601) 452-7261.

For more information on the 1995 Growing Churches Conferences or to register for the sessions, contact Salter at the MBCB Sunday School Department, (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

## First, Itta Bena, celebrates 100 year anniversary

First Church, Itta Bena, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, July 9.

Worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. A patriotic service will follow at 11:30.

Doyle Cummings will be the guest speaker for the day; Andy Cummings will be guest singer.

Lunch will be served following the patriotic service.

Higdon Herrington is pastor.

Thursday, June 29, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



## Butler benediction

Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry (right) thanks Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church in Southaven, for offering the benediction at the close of the June 21 morning session of the SBC annual meeting in the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta. The session was keyed by Southern Seminary President Al Mohler, who delivered the convention sermon. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## OTHER SBC NEWS...

### Garland gets ovation from ministers' wives

ATLANTA (BP) — "As Christians, we must recognize that your children are my children," Diana Garland told more than 500 women gathered for the 40th annual conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives June 20 at Atlanta's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

"Good parents have strong support systems," said Garland, Gheens professor of Christian family ministry and professor of social work at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., since 1983.

The group elected the following officers for 1995: Betty Baggott, Opelika, Ala., president, wife of Farmville Church pastor Bob Baggott; Patty Hankins, Lake Charles, La., vice president, wife of Bruce Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church; Betty Jean Billingsley of Hollywood, Fla., recording secretary, wife of Bill Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Church; Marthe Sims of Socorro, N.M., corresponding secretary, wife of the pastor of Rio Rancho Church in Rio Rancho.

### Messengers approve Committee on Committees

ATLANTA (BP) — Seventy persons from 35 state and regional Baptist conventions were elected by messengers to the June 20-22 Southern Baptist Convention to serve on the SBC's Committee on Nominations.

The committee will bring nominations of Baptists to the 1996 SBC meeting in New Orleans to serve on the various SBC boards, commissions, and committees.

Committee members from Mississippi are Gordon H. Sansing, pastor, First Church, Vicksburg; and Andy Taggart, layman, First Church, Jackson.

### Floyd is chairman of SBC Executive Committee

ATLANTA (BP) — Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas narrowly defeated Virginia's T.C. Pinckney June 21 to become chairman of the Executive Committee.

Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., was elected chairman by a four-vote margin, 31-27. Pinckney, a retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general, lives in Alexandria, Va.

In other election results:

— James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., and past president of the Pastors' Conference, was elected committee vice chairman by acclamation.

— Rex Terry, an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., and member of the Program Structure and Study Committee, was elected secretary in a 35-24 vote over Forrest E. Lowry III, pastor of Spring (Texas) Church.



## Mississippi centenarian at WMU national meet

Anise McDaniel (right), 101-year-old member of First Church, Clinton, is greeted by Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). McDaniel gave her testimony at the national WMU annual meeting in Atlanta June 19 prior to the start of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. McDaniel, mother of retired Southern Baptist missionary Major McDaniel, spoke on "What WMU has meant to me." (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

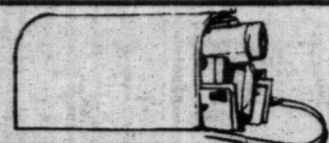
## No BR July 6

There will be no Baptist Record published next Thursday, July 6. Publication will resume on July 13.

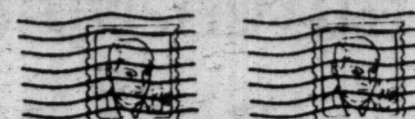
News items to appear in the July 13 issue should arrive in the Baptist Record offices no later than noon on July 7.

Because of the paper's agreement with the United States Postal Service, The Baptist Record publishes only 50 issues a year, taking hiatus the weeks of July 4 and Christmas.





# Letters to the editor



## News from the field

Editor:

We returned to the field on Feb. 16. Dennis took a two-week trip to Burundi, returning on March 21. We then started our Swahili study as planned on March 23. The trip to Burundi went well, and he was able to see our belongings packed and locked into a sea container which is on Tanzania soil now. Conditions became quite serious while he was there, with two government officials being assassinated, a Belgian family and a number of Burundians being killed. We were very thankful to the Lord for his safety and the things that he was able to accomplish while he was there.

Our children Lauren and John have completed their school year at Rosslyn Academy. Micah is our little "twiglet." Three days per week he has gone to a local playschool named the "Tigoni Twiglets," which is run by two British ladies. There were several other little MKs from Brackenhurst Baptist Conference Center there, and he seemed to really enjoy it. All of our children have had a great time with the other MKs here. We have had as many as 26 MKs living at Brackenhurst at one time while we've been here. This will all change when we move to our bush station in Tanzania, where the children will be home-schooled by Margaret.

A lot of preparation is going on here for the Nairobi Crusade that is planned for June. Plans are for several hundred volunteers to come from the States to participate in many different ways. The goal is to start 100 new churches as a result of the crusade.

Our address until Nov. 15 is:  
P.O. Box 52  
Limuru, Kenya.  
After Nov. 15, our address will be:

c/o Baptist of Tanzania  
P.O. Box 9414  
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania  
Thank you again for your continued prayer and financial support for our work here in East Africa.  
Dennis and Margaret McCall  
Mississippi missionaries

## We've failed to stand

Editor:

I refer to your editorial, "Christian Citizenship," in the June 8 issue of *The Baptist Record*, and also to the article by Pam Parry titled "Christian Coalition, leaders clash over agenda."

In your editorial, you briefly describe two extremes regarding Christian involvement in government, law, and politics. It strikes me that the one extreme whereby Christians have avoided has proven to be a dismal failure. We've been there, done that for the past 50 years. Look at what it's gotten us. As a nation, we don't stand for anything anymore except atheism, paganism, and humanism. No need to elaborate on the ills and problems that beset us.

I was dismayed that you seem

to define the other extreme as being that of the Christian Coalition-style conservatism. Sadly, that kind of thinking is typical of false pietism, whereby Protestant Christianity (and particularly we Baptists) have turned inward over the last several decades. We've abandoned involvement in what has been termed the "world," and have concluded that we must accept whatever form of government we have and must submit to whatever actions our rulers take. Until we decide to have an external impact upon the world politically, socially, legally, and morally, we will basically remain a stagnant church — lukewarm at best, one God would spew out of his mouth.

Invisible salt, you say? Perhaps, but I think that may be the problem, not the solution. We've been so invisible no one knows (or cares) we're here. Theologian J. Gresham Machen pointed out in the early part of this century: "We may preach with all the fervor of a reformer and yet succeed only in winning a straggler here and there, if we permit the whole collective thought of the nation... to be controlled by ideas which, by the relentless force of logic, prevent Christianity from being regarded as anything more than a harmless delusion."

Who were the leaders who clashed with the Christian Coalition agenda? Maybe we need to take a closer look at them. They're probably the same ones who got us in this mess we're in. They come from without and within, you know. See Acts 20:29-31.

Barney Smith Jr.  
Columbia

## Kudos for chorale

Editor:

On June 11, members of the Mississippi College Concert Chorale were led by guest conductor John Rutter in a performance of Bach's "Magnificat" with other choruses from across the United States at Carnegie Hall. The Chamber Choir also made a solo appearance under its own director, James Richard Joiner, presenting works of Byrd and Sclater. I am writing to inform your readership of the wonderful success that the chorus enjoyed in these performances.

The aim of MidAmerica Productions is to highlight the appearance of distinguished ensembles from throughout the United States in Carnegie Hall. Since 1984, we have presented more than 450 ensembles in over 130 concerts in our annual Carnegie Hall series. We are pleased that the chorus was part of this series.

We congratulate the members of the chorus on their appearance and wish to make special mention of Dr. Joiner for assisting them in preparing for these special concerts. Indeed, your community is fortunate to have the Mississippi College Chamber Choir and Concert Chorale in its midst. We sincerely hope that you will continue

to support its activities. We look forward to having the chorus return to our program in the future.

Norman Dunfee  
Executive director  
MidAmerica Productions  
New York, N.Y.

## Seeks mission pastor

Editor:

The Fellowship Baptist Church, a congregation of 40 people located in Bad Kreuznach, Germany (southwest of Frankfurt), is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, you may call Louis Smith, director of Church-Minister Relations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (800) 748-1651; or contact:

Jennifer Parks  
HHC 1 A.D.  
CMR 438 Box 2731  
APO AE 09111

## Validated doctrines

Editor:

I wish to commend W. Levon Moore, retired director of missions for Attala Association, for his Guest Opinion in the June 1 issue of *The Baptist Record*. In it, he appealed for a larger perspective on the school prayer issue. He focused upon three considerations.

The first was the nature of prayer. He defined true prayer as personal communication between an individual and God. He reminded his readers that true believers can pray any time and in any place, and he recommended that prayer be privately experienced but publicly expressed in homes, synagogues, or temples.

The second was the nature of God. He said that the statement "God has been taken out of the schools" reveals an immature concept of God. He reminded his readers that God is omnipresent in the world he created and that only the human heart can deny God a dwelling place.

The third was the nature of the spiritual task. He said that homes and churches should not expect secular institutions to perform their spiritual functions.

Moore's opinion spiritually validated our long-held Baptist doctrine of religious liberty and its corollary, the separation of church and state.

Flynn T. Harrell, former pres.  
S. Carolina Baptist convention  
Columbia, S.C.

## Thanks for memories

Editor:

I wish to convey my feelings to everyone the thanks and high esteem I have for the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

In planning for our 100th homecoming anniversary, we needed any information we could get about our early church history, since all our early records have been destroyed or lost.

Alice Cox, librarian, was so courteous, prompt, and very efficient. We were supplied with some very helpful information. Our great thanks are to her and the commission.

Elaine Champion  
Corinth Church  
Tallahatchie County

## Language evolution?

Editor:

It has now been several decades since I first heard "you" and "your(s)" used in public prayer and in worship services in place of "thou, thine, thee, and thy." At first I thought of it as a desecration, but later on, it appeared to me that I might as well get used to it. It was here to stay. I would inject at this point that I am not starting a movement (we have enough of those in the SBC). This is merely a commentary or "food for thought."

I am fully aware of the origin of the above pronouns, both subjective, objective, and possessive. What a unique history they have in the evolution of our language. One thinks of *Canterbury Tales*, *Paradise Lost*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and of course, our beloved King James version Bible of 1611.

Did we start referring to God as "you" because the use of Old English terms were too awkward, or did we want to get on a casual basis with God that required little, if any, commitment, as in "The Man Upstairs" and other songs of that ilk? The answer is probably yes, to both options.

I am no longer disturbed by the use of "you" and "yours" in prayer, except when it comes out in this manner: "Y' been good to us, Lord," or "We love ya', Lord."

From the Old Testament, I was taught that the Jews avoided using God's name in any of the forms available, for fear they would be accused of using his name in vain. The penalties were severe, so they left it up to the priests to call upon the Lord.

I would conclude that many of those who continually use the expression, "Oh, my God," are not being truthful.

J.B. Morgan  
Long Beach

## Pharisaical attitude

Editor:

I read "The Fragments" in the June 15 issue of *The Baptist Record* and believe this speaks for many people in the Southern Baptist Convention. The article titled, "Short circuited" speaks to a problem in the church today; however, it is not the wearing of the unacceptable clothing, but in who is acceptable and who is not. Many church leaders focus their attention on the externals and not the heart. I believe those who

focus on what people are wearing are practicing dead orthodoxy.

Dead orthodoxy is the legalism of the Pharisees, tying those people to the laws of man rather than freeing them to find God. This type of "Christianity" holds out chains and bars, rather than grace and acceptance. The Pharisees looked good, said all the right words, and gave the correct amount in the offering, but in their hearts were far from the Lord. If people did not look or act like the Pharisees, they had nothing to do with them. They even accused our Lord of being a wine-bibber and glutton, because he associated with "sinners." I believe the Lord Jesus Christ built bridges, not barriers.

I agree with the editor's self-assessment of being old-fashioned. Dead orthodoxy is old-fashioned, not because of style, but because it violates the Word of God. Please recapture the freedom Jesus Christ offered, practiced, and taught in the gospels and epistles.

Thomas D. Webber  
Ocean Springs

## Please, no more skin

Editor:

Thanks so much for your timely and well-stated article in "The Fragments" section of the June 15 *Baptist Record*. You spoke my sentiments completely regarding the state of dress (or "un-dress") we are seeing in our churches these days.

The attitude toward today's church dress code seems to be the less, the slouchier, the more risque, the more daring, the better. This is especially true on Sunday evenings, though I feel that the Lord's house is still his house no matter what day of the week it is.

I noticed that the shorts-wearing trend first began with our young boys and girls. Then it moved to the teenagers, and now (heaven forbid!) includes some of our middle-aged adults. I am also appalled at some of the designs and wording on T-shirts which are worn in some churches.

I am not singling out my own church necessarily because I see this trend in churches of all sizes, in all geographic locations, and in all denominations, but it still bothers me. It must be bothering other church leaders because in some of the newsletters and bulletins which cross my desk each week, I notice that pastors and staff members are beginning to write on the subject.

Color me "old-fashioned" as well, because I think there is a place for dignity and decency in God's house. Yes, I am well aware that "man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart." I also know that the world looks at those of us who are Christians and church members and sometimes they see lots of legs, thighs, and... (oops!) bottoms in the church house!

Linda Jenkins, secretary  
First Church  
Yazoo City





## Bookstore browsing

Butch Knight (left), pastor of Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, and Mike Heeringa, pastor of South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, take time between sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta June 20-22 to browse Baptist Book Store displays. The displays were housed in the Georgia World Congress Center, next door to the Georgia Dome where the convention sessions were conducted. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Homecomings

**Fair River, Brookhaven:** July 23; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Ed North, Humbolt, Tenn., guest speaker; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night service; Chip Henderson, pastor.

**North Greenwood, Greenwood:** July 16; 40 year anniversary; 10:30 a.m.; Jim Phillips, pastor.

**Morgantown, Natchez:** July 2; dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service; Talmadge Smith, guest speaker; James Walters, pastor.

**Goodwater (Smith):** July 9; 11 a.m.; John Russum, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; no night service; The Gaskins represented in Cemetery Association; John Adcock, pastor.



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# Speakers support WMU's work, contributions to SBC

ATLANTA (BP) — A standing ovation greeted the report of Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien from the estimated 3,500 registrants at the WMU, SBC, annual meeting when she told the group WMU was "not born by vote of this convention, nor will we die by it." The reference was to the omission of WMU's role from the proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The value of WMU was echoed by numerous comments from speakers during the June 18-19 WMU meeting at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

That omission was addressed by SBC messengers June 20 when the restructuring proposal was amended to include a statement of affirmation of WMU's work and contributions to SBC life.

During the WMU annual meeting, one of the 37 missionaries commissioned by the Home Mission Board during Monday's closing session explained that his going into career missions was a direct result of the grace of God and because of WMU.

Ron Lewis, appointed as a church planter in Calabash, N.C., told of his release from a 15-year drug habit when he was saved and a later call to missions after being dragged to a WMU mobilization meeting.

"Don't forget where you were when God found you," said Lewis.

William O. Estep, professor at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and writer of a history of the Foreign Mission Board, told the group that "the SBC would not be what it is today without the

WMU." He added, "If the WMU is left out of the Covenant for a New Century (restructuring plan), the SBC will be less than it is today."

Carolyn Miller, re-elected for a fifth one-year term as WMU president, said, "Have no fear, we will be the missions organization for the Southern Baptist Convention."

In his challenge to the missionaries at the commissioning service, HMB President Larry Lewis said that the relationship of WMU to the HMB "will continue as it has in the past in the years ahead."

Anise McDaniel, a 101-year-old woman from Clinton, told the gathering, "The world has come to our doorstep. We don't have to go overseas to do missions. There's a wonderful oppor-



O'Brien

tunity to do missions at home."

She also said dedicated women will "do the work and keep the principles of Christianity. No matter what we're called, dedicated women will do the work."

Her words supported an earlier report from Linda Johnson, a home missionary based in Atlanta, who told the women about the Christian witnessing effort planned for the 1996 Olympics in the city. These include a sports New Testament with the plan of salvation, a throwing disc which functions as a tract with the plan of salvation in six languages, lapel pins for conversation starters, and an interactive pocket guide to the Olympics which is also a tract.

As part of an introduction to the WMU's next ministry emphasis, former SBC President Jimmy Allen told the story of the physical destruction of his family by AIDS. Allen, chaplain at Big Canoe Chapel, Big Canoe, Ga., said his daughter-in-law and her son have died from AIDS. And a grandson and Allen's other son are dying.

## SBC

From page 3

"We're connected at the hip where the wallet is," Johnson said.

Added Williams, "The Great Commission of our Lord is bigger than the program structure of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The amendment to continue the Historical Commission was proposed by Slayden Yarbrough, a professor at Oklahoma Baptist

University, Shawnee, and a commission trustee now serving as interim executive director.

"Economically, the proposal (of the PSSC) not only will not save money for missions, it may well result in the loss of funds," Yarbrough said. He noted the Historical Commission currently receives about one-third of 1% of Cooperative Program funds, or about \$500,000 annually.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, called the PSSC report "one of the greatest decisions to face Southern Baptists in these 150 years."

Adoption of the report came as Southern Baptists celebrated the sesquicentennial of their founding in 1845 in Augusta, Ga.

## Mt. Pisgah notes 150th

Mt. Pisgah Church, Eupora, will celebrate its 150th anniversary, beginning July 2.

Former pastors will preach at worship services through Aug. 13.

On July 2 and 30, the church will hold all-day services. All friends of the church are invited to attend.



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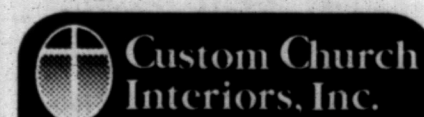
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## Names in the News



Brothers **Jeremy C. Williams** (second from left) and **Edison M. Williams III** (third from right) were recently ordained to the ministry in a joint service by New Palestine Church, Picayune. They had previously been licensed to preach in a joint service at New Palestine. Edison currently serves as minister of youth at New Henleyfield Church, and studies at New Orleans Seminary. Jeremy is minister of youth at the Hillcrest Road Church, and studies at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Joining them in the service were (left to right): Kevin Neary, pastor of Hillcrest Road Church; Jeremy; Edison M. Williams Jr., deacon at New Palestine; Cathy Williams, New Palestine minister of youth; Edison III; Billy Warren, pastor of New Henleyfield Church; and Grover Glenn, pastor of New Palestine Church. All three churches are members of the Pearl River Association.

Mississippi College presented special certificates to 11 individuals who have completed 15 years of service. Receiving certificates were Marilyn Joiner, School of Education; Mina Golden, Business Office; Annie Browning, Business Office; Pam Smith, Women's Athletics/Physical Education; Tom Gladney, head baseball coach; Kirk Ford, History and Political Science; J. Richard Hurt, School of Law; Richard Joiner, Music Department; Kearney Shearer, Business Office; Robert Chapman, Public Safety; and Ted Snazelle, Biology.

Carol C. West of Jackson, professor at the MC School of Law in

Jackson, and Alan Klick of Madison, assistant manager of the Computer Center on campus were honored for 20 years of service to MC.

Honored for 25 years of service were Myrtle Curtis, mailroom supervisor; Gerald Lee, professor and dean in the School of Business; Anita Gowin, professor and head of the Department of



Wilbur Webb and his wife Bonnie were honored by Moorhead Church at a May reception marking his retirement after five and a half years as pastor. The Webbs were given a book of letters, a custom-made glider, and money. Webb has been in the ministry for 45 years, 25 in the Mississippi Delta. He is available for supply preaching. Contact him at 1244 Hwy 469N, Jackson; telephone (601) 932-6704.

Linda and Jim Meadows will be honored July 9 by Long Creek Church, Meridian, in recognition of his 30th year as pastor of the church. Special services under the theme "Thirty years of leadership, loyalty, and love," will begin at 10 a.m. Albert Creel, who was called to preach under Meadows' ministry, will preach the 11:30 a.m. sermon. A lunch will follow that service; at 2 p.m. the Ridgeways will perform; a 3 p.m. tea will be held in the fellowship hall. Meadows began his ministry in Muscle Shoals, Ala. He attended Clarke College, and pastored Hills Chapel Church in Huntsville, Ala., prior to going to Long Creek.

Foreign Languages; James Sclater, professor of music; Roger Hamilton, maintenance/ground foreman; and Joel Hudson, assistant professor in Physical Education. They each received a \$500 savings bond.

Honored for 30 years of service were Billy Lytal, professor and head of the Department of Communication and director of the Learning Resources Center; Patricia Walston, assistant professor of music; and Billy Trotter, assistant professor of music.

Gerald Claxton, assistant professor of music, was honored for 35 years of service. He was presented with an engraved watch.

Gary Kennedy, minister of music at Spring Hill Church, Marshall Association, recently graduated from Blue Mountain College with a degree in church related vocations.

Alma I. Davis celebrated her 100th birthday on June 8. A member of Byram Church, Jackson, she taught in the children's department for many years. Now blind, hard of hearing, and bedridden since December 1994, she is still a witness to others.

Paul Middleton, pastor of Spring Hill Church, Marshall Association, recently graduated with a master of divinity degree from Mid America Seminary.

## Mississippi College announces second summer registration

Day students attending Mississippi College for the second summer term will register on July 10 from 9-11:30 a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum.

All day classes will meet that afternoon on an abbreviated schedule for class assignments. The following schedule will be followed for the abbreviated periods: 1st, 1-1:15 p.m.; 2nd, 1:30-1:45; 3rd, 2-2:15 p.m., and 4th, 2:30-2:45 p.m. Regular class meetings will begin on July 11.

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## Olive Branch scholar recognized by SBACS

Joshua Hudson Smith of Memphis ranked in the top 10 finalists of the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools' (SBACS) first annual Outstanding Scholars, Discovery, Recognition & Scholarship program. Smith is a 1995 graduate of the Southern Baptist Education Center, a ministry of Broadway Church, Olive Branch.



Smith

He received achievement awards for history, math, and English; excelled in basketball; and represented the International Sports Exchange in China during his sophomore year. Smith also received the 1995 (Memphis) Commercial Appeal newspaper's "Best of the Preps" basketball award.

While in school, he was active in drama and ran track. His father Jerry is pastor of Labelle Haven Church in Memphis.

Smith has worked in a Memphis-area congressional campaign, and has twice traveled to the Chicago area to help in ministry to inner-city teenagers. In addition, he has owned and operated his own lawn care business.

"The greatest people in my life are my mom and dad," Smith said.

"They have taught me many important lessons.... The most important thing they have taught me is how to have a relationship with Jesus."

Smith said he feels God has called him into business. "I hope to use my... talents... in the business field to have a ministry and serve the Lord through my entrepreneurship," he said.

He will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville this fall, where he will study business and political science.

Nine other Southern Baptist Christian school graduates in eight states received national recognition by the SBACS for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and Christian character. Using a selection criterion which includes SAT and ACT scores, as well as grade point averages and achievements, the association awarded \$1,000 scholarships to the top two of the 10 student finalists.

For more information about SBACS, contact John Chandler, executive director, at P.O. Box 3407, Brentwood, TN 37024-3407; telephone (800) 722-2764.

## Vacation Bible Schools

Trinity, Pearl: July 10-14: 7-9 p.m.; for van to pick up children, call (601) 939-6622; Kenny Goff, pastor.

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# Staff Changes

Thursday, June 29, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

# Names in the News

Chris Lynch has recently moved to **First Church, Houston**, as minister of youth. A native of Arkansas, Lynch graduated in May from Southwestern Seminary. Al Gaspard is pastor.



son, she received her education at the University of Southern Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary.

**Billy G. Floyd**, pastor of **Silver City Church** in Humphreys County for four and one-half years, has resigned. He has accepted the pastorate of Faith Baptist Chapel in Rupert, W. Va. He will move around the first of August.

**Corinth Church, Magee**, has called **Lynsol Richmond** as pastor. A native of Wilson, Ark., he received his education at Arkansas State University and Bethany Theological Seminary. He was formerly pastor of First Church, Luxora, Ark.

**Eastside Church, Belzoni**, has called **Kevin Griffin** as pastor effective May 7. A native of Pearl, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

**First Church, Calhoun City**, has called **Jana Carter** of Clinton to serve as minister to youth and children effective June 1. Carter is a 1995 graduate of Mississippi College. Her previous place of service was youth intern at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

**Bethesda Church, Terry**, has called **Felix Martin (Marty) Wilson** of Florence as pastor effective June 25. His previous place of service was Mountain Creek Church, Florence. Wilson is a graduate of Crichton College, in Memphis. He is presently working on a master of divinity degree through the extension program of New Orleans Seminary.

**Countrywoods Church, Jackson**, has called **Susan Heiden** as minister of youth and activities effective June 1. A native of Jack-

**Todd Stewart** (right, in photo at right), pastor of Robinson Church, Liberty, recently graduated from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, with a 4.0 grade average, majoring in religion and minoring in history. At the commencement exercise, he was awarded the J.E. Byrd Memorial Award, given to the outstanding ministerial student. At Honor's Day, Stewart received the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship award, considered to be the highest award a student can receive at William Carey College. He is pictured with Jim Edwards, president of William Carey College.



**Garland Eaves**, a former pastor, is now in Eupora Health Care Center. His address is: 200 Walnut Ave., Eupora, MS 39744. Churches he served include: Oak Grove, Winston County; Self Creek, Oktibbeha County; Gunnison, Bolivar County; Golden Central, Tishomingo County; Wheeler Grove, Alcorn County; Moselle Memorial, Jones County; Pleasant Grove, Wayne County, and Fellowship, Choctaw County.

## Revival Dates

**Thomastown, Thomastown:** July 9-14; 7:30 p.m.; Billy McKay, Hollandale, evangelist; Don Watts, Star, music; Rick Hammarstrom, pastor.

**Clarke Venable, Decatur:** July 9-13; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist.

**Antioch, Neshoba:** Harvest Night, July 6; 7:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Argicola, music; James Young, pastor.

**Spring Creek, Philadelphia:** July 9-14; Sunday, 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Randy Mobley, Nesbit, evangelist; Wayne King, pastor.

**Shiloh, Sontag:** July 23-28; 7 p.m.; Kenneth Moore, Walnut Ridge, Ark., evangelist; Phillip Alford, McComb, music; Eddie H. Bates, pastor.

**Antioch, Brandon:** July 23-28; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Williamson, Brandon, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music; Marion Spence, pastor.

**Vaiden (Carroll):** July 9-14; Sunday, Gene Gillis, guest speaker, 11 a.m.; Sunday through Fri., 7:30 nightly; different speaker each night; Bob Bailey, Winona, music; Leon Holly, pastor.

## LifeAnswers



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I just buried my brother, making me the last living sibling from a loving family of 11 children. The pain of going on without them is almost unbearable. How can I comfort myself?*

When sadness and pain come, don't hold it back. Loneliness is a terrible aspect of the grieving process. The feeling that you have no one with whom you have a connection can be devastating. Stay busy with activities at home. Make new friends. Keep up your responsibilities at church. Look for opportunities to talk with younger generations, using your time in worthwhile ways — for example, to help boys and girls from single parent homes. Other lonely people often would like to hear your story, but of course you must also be open to their stories. Most importantly, give yourself time to grieve. Joy will return in time, but you cannot rush it.

*I know my disabled wife is in*

*a great deal of pain, but I'm convinced that she plays up her condition for sympathy and control. How can I stop this behavior?*

First, find out from her doctor what you should be expecting from your wife. Her doctor may be able to offer ideas on stimulating your wife to move on with her life, and how you can deal with the reality of this situation. By teaming with her doctor, the two of you may be able to encourage your wife to go beyond what she thinks she can do and also help relieve your frustration. Secondly, always be positive when she does the right things. Affirmation and encouragement may increase her ability to try things that seem difficult, and give her strength she doesn't know she has. The book, *Charlie's Victory*, tells the love story of how Charlie and Lucy Wedemeyer dealt with Charlie's amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). I encourage you to read it.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Just for the Record

**Calvary Church, Canton, N.Y.**, is in need of used books and tapes. Send to Randy Payne, librarian, Box 985, Canton, NY 13617.

**First Church, Lambert**, will sponsor a big cat show, including African and Asian lions, Bengal tigers, and a Asian panther. The show will be held at the Garon Building, Hwy. 3, June 30, at 7 p.m. A gospel message will be presented and gospel tracts will be distributed. Steve Huber is pastor.

**Galilee Church, Rankin**

County, will present R.L. and Beth Sigrest in a patriotic concert on July 2 at 11 a.m. The Sigrests have served as music evangelists in over 1,200 churches. Danny Berry is pastor. Ray Gates is music minister.

**Tinsley Church, Yazoo Association**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on July 15 at 10 a.m. A covered dish dinner will be served in fellowship hall at 12:30 p.m. On program will be Kevin Jones, Benton, former pastor, guest speaker; Henry Kirk, Yazoo City, music; and Carol S. Powell, pianist. Kerry Burrough is pastor.

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**PART-TIME MUSIC** Director, Southside Baptist Church. Send resume to: 120 S. Monroe St., Yazoo City, MS 39194, or call (601) 746-4591 9 a.m.-noon M-F.

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## Uniform National wrongs



By Andy Brasher  
Amos 1:1—3:2

As a serious student of history, I've noticed, as others have, several key factors that have led to the decline of great and prosperous nations. These factors are moral decadence, social injustice, and governmental corruption.

Contrary to secular thinking, these transgressions generally followed a period of prosperity and opulence. From my observation, this tends to be a repeating and continuing cycle. History does bear this out. For example, examine the ancient Egyptian state, the Greek democracies, and the Roman empire to see this vicious cycle at work. One may ponder the question: What perpetuates this vicious cycle of decay? The answer: Sin!

It should be of little surprise that the divided nation of Israel experienced the same demise. Within this hostile environment of moral, spiritual, and social decay, Amos, the prophet, preached his antagonistic message of judgment.

From a closer examination of the Scriptures, Amos, a shepherd by trade, prophesied in the middle of the eighth century B.C. during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam II of Israel. Amos, a native of Judah, preached primarily in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

**Judgment of the nations (1:3-2:3).** The prophet pronounces judgment upon the surrounding nations which had inflicted harm on Israel. The language Amos uses indicates the utter destruction of these nations, presumably by future military invasions.

**The judgment of Judah (2:4-5).** Amos speaks of the innumerable transgressions of Judah against God. First, he declares that Judah has rejected God. This refers to the people resisting the will of God.

Secondly, Amos tells the nations they have not kept the law of God. Judah had severed the law through disobedience.

Thirdly, Israel has been "led astray" by freely choosing to follow the lies of false gods, probably the cult of Baal. In general, the charge leveled against Judah is moral and spiritual decay resulting from disobedience. Because of these atrocities, Amos foretells that God will send fire down upon Judah consuming the citadels of Jerusalem. This refers more than likely to the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

**The judgment of Israel (2:6-16).** In verses 6-8, the prophet speaks of the social injustice and oppression of the poor. This scenario is typical of a depraved nation whose prosperity is supported by unlawfully exploiting the destitute. For social injustice and oppression to occur without societal condemnation, a nation must be in the final stage of moral and spiritual decline. In the following verses 9-16, Amos underscores the fact that Israel's behavior was all the more treacherous in lieu of the mighty acts which God had performed for their salvation.

**Privilege and responsibility (3:1-2).** In this passage, Amos indicates that Israel was God's predestined people. This is simply undeniable. However, due to their unique providential relationship with God, privilege carried responsibility. The responsibility on the part of Israel was to uphold and obey the letter and spirit of the law, which they had not done. Thus, the same God who rescued Israel from the slavery of Egypt will now judge them for their illicit behavior and disobedience towards him.

Could the same fate await our nation and the individuals who propagate similar transgressions? Is it possible that we, like Amos, should take a greater stand in eradicating the moral and spiritual filth that plagues our land? Should we stand idle and let judgment fall without a fight, or should we raise the banner of the cross and take a holy stand in order to save our nation and the communities which we represent? Like Israel, we must individually assume responsibility for our actions.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

## Bible Book Ezekiel called to proclaim



By Larry McDonald  
Ezekiel 2, 3

The church had a new sign which was not only used to announce the pastor's message the following week but also had a place for a thought for the week to be printed. One week this message appeared: "When God speaks, E.F. Hutton listens."

Even while Ezekiel was in the exile, God spoke. And when God spoke, Ezekiel listened.

Ezekiel was born a priest but ministered as a prophet during the last days of the decline and fall of Judah. While Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem, Ezekiel preached to the exiles in Babylon. Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, had a message of God's severe judgment upon a faithless nation. Ezekiel also adds a note of hope: God's promise of a restored nation in the future. While emphasizing the glory of the sovereign God, Ezekiel portrays God's purpose through both the judgment and blessing "that all might know that I am the Lord." This phrase is repeated in the book almost 70 times.

The first message God spoke to Ezekiel regarded his calling (2:2-6). When the presence of God initially came upon Ezekiel, the prophet fell face down (1:28). Then God told Ezekiel to stand up. As he was standing the Spirit of God came into Ezekiel (2:1-2), bearing God's strength upon his life. (Ezekiel means "God strengthens.") Ezekiel's calling was to take the message of God to the Israelites.

During this period the Israelites were not the most receptive people when it came to hearing the message of God. In fact God used words like "rebellious" (2:3), "revolting" (2:3), "obstinate" (2:4), and "stubborn" (2:4) to describe their character. Even with an unwelcoming audience, one which would undoubtedly reject the message, Ezekiel was to be faithful in his proclamation. Ezekiel was to remain faithful to God and his message, regardless of the response from the people.

Today, God is calling his people to proclaim his Word to this world. Our world, like the Israelites, might not be receptive. But our calling, like Ezekiel's, is to be faithful to God and his Word and leave the results up to him.

The second message Ezekiel heard from God concerned his responsibility to be a watchman (3:17, 21). During this time period, a watchman was a city employee appointed to be a lookout from some high vantage point such as a tower or the city wall. Such an office was extremely important because the safety of the entire population rested with the watchman. If a watchman failed in his duty to warn a town of danger, he was held personally responsible for any loss.

God told the prophet he was sent as a "watchman" to Israel (3:17). The duties of the watchman were twofold. One, he was to discern the threat. Just as a doctor examines a patient seeing the trouble area, we are to be aware of the dangers within our society so we can fulfill the second responsibility of a watchman: to speak a warning. It is not enough to just see the dangers, we must be willing to warn others of them.

Just as the watchman has responsibilities, the person in danger has them also. The person in danger must hear the warning, therefore he must be alert. Too often we are like the ostrich with his head buried in the sand. We stick our heads in the sand and pretend everything is okay. By doing this, we miss the warning.

Even if we hear the warning, we have a second responsibility; we must heed the warning. Often we have the attitude: "It won't happen to me." The Bible warns us to take heed, because when we think we stand, we will fall.

Those who discern the threat are responsible for speaking. Those to whom the warning is given are responsible for acting.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

## Life and Work Getting "refired"



By Bob Rogers  
Colossians 1

A pastor was praying for retirees who had taken the attitude that they would also quit serving the church and "let the younger people do it." The pastor prayed, "Lord, don't retire them, re-fire them!"

The theme of Paul's letter to the Colossians is commitment to Christ. To be committed to Christ, a Christian must first be committed to grow in Christ — getting refired.

Verses 1-2 open the letter with the name of the author — the apostle Paul — and the recipients, the Christians at Colosse, a small city in the Lycus River valley in the Roman province of Asia.

Paul motivated the Colossians to continue growing in three ways: by thanking God for their good reputation (vv. 3-7), by telling them he was praying for them (v. 9), and by telling them how they should grow (vv. 10-12).

**Their good reputation (vv. 3-7).** Paul had never met the Colossians (2:1), so his information about them was based on what others said. "We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints" (v. 4).

When somebody tells you that they have heard good things about you it makes you want to continue doing good.

Step by step, Paul traced the Colossians' reputation back to its source in verses 4-6. Paul heard about their faith and love, which sprang up from a well of hope, which had its source in the promise of heaven, which they heard from "the word of truth, the gospel" (v. 5), which came from God's grace.

**Paul's prayers for them (v. 9).** Sometimes we may feel that we are being boastful about our spiritual lives if we tell others that we are praying for them. However, letting others know of our prayers for them can greatly encourage them.

Paul unashamedly told the Colossians that he prayed prayers of thanksgiving for them (v. 3), and prayers of intercession "asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (v. 9). Verse 9 is a model prayer to use when interceding for others.

**How to grow (vv. 10-12).** Verses 10-12 list key qualities needed to please God as we grow spiritually:

1. We must grow in doing good deeds. Daily we must learn to put our faith into action.

2. We must grow in the knowledge of God. Spiritual growth is fed by a spiritually trained mind, reading the Bible and being hungry to learn more.

3. We must grow in spiritual strength by plugging into the power source: "his glorious might." We must exercise our faith in order to grow stronger in faith.

4. We must grow in patience and endurance. This comes as a result of spiritual strength.

5. We must grow in a joyful and thankful attitude toward God the Father. This comes by keeping our vision in view for "the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (v. 12).

**Application activity:** Take a sheet of paper and list the five areas of spiritual growth from verses 10-12 as outlined above. Rate yourself in each area on a scale of one to 10.

How did you do? In what areas do you most need to grow? What can you do this week to start growing in those areas?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

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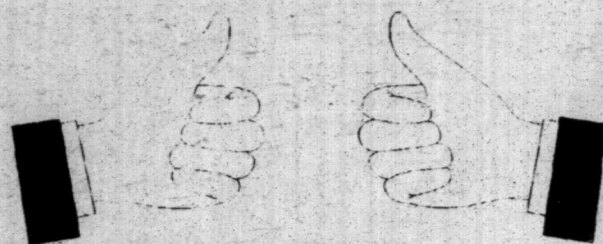
# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

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### Awards and Achievements 1994-95 School Year

- Candace Alexander** — Reedy Acres Campus; Received a Science Award; Sings in High School & Youth Choirs at FBC Water Valley; Karate (White Belt); Excellent score on ACT.
- Annie Carroll** — Reedy Acres Campus; Honor Roll; Karate; Children's Choir, FBC Water Valley; Right Field for Valley Auto Softball Team.
- Charley Carroll** — Reedy Acres Campus; Second Grade Spelling Bee Award; Karate (Green Belt); Children's Choir, FBC Water Valley.
- Mary Carroll** — Reedy Acres Campus; Sang in FBC Water Valley Youth Choir.
- Monica Charlton** — Farrow Manor Campus; Participation in Band, Independence High School
- Patrick Clark** — Farrow Manor Campus; 8th Grade Class Favorite and Campus Cutie at the Independence Jr. High.
- Ashley Clemmons** — Deanash Campus; Honor Roll, Stone County Jr. High; Children's Choir, FBC Wiggins.
- Shanon Clemmons** — Deanash Campus; FBC Wiggins Youth Choir
- Pam Collins** — India Nunnery Campus; Point of Light Award, Sumner Hill Jr. High.
- Brittney Cox** — Reedy Acres Campus; Honor Roll, Received trophy & Certificate in Language Arts for being a "Model Student"; Sings in the Youth Choir, FBC Water Valley.
- Keisha Cox** — Reedy Acres Campus; Sang in School Chorus & FBC Water Valley Youth Choir.
- Lee Davis** — Reedy Acres Campus; Participation in Baseball, Karate (Yellow Belt).
- Vivian Farmer** — Deanash Campus; FBC Wiggins Youth Choir
- Brandi Harvison** — Deanash Campus; Honor Roll, Stone County High School; FBC Wiggins Youth Choir.
- Tanya Harvison** — Deanash Campus; FBC Wiggins Youth Choir.
- Jay Henry** — Reedy Acres Campus; Played Basketball, Baseball, Tennis. Received NEMA English Merit Award; Honor Roll; Karate (Purple Belt); Associational Award in Bible Drills; Who's Who Among American High School Students; French Award.

- Brandon Hollis** — Reedy Acres Campus; Karate; FBC Water Valley Children's Choir; Water Valley Softball player.
- Amanda Keen** — Reedy Acres Campus; Karate (White Belt); Sings in FBC Water Valley Youth Choir.
- Chris Kyzar** — Reedy Acres Campus; Karate; FBC Water Valley Children's Choir; Water Valley Softball player.
- Freda Kyzar** — Reedy Acres Campus; Music Helping Award; Children's Choir, FBC Water Valley.
- Lee Otis Kyzar** — Reedy Acres Campus; Karate; FBC Water Valley Children's Choir; Water Valley Softball player.
- Shelly Kyzar** — Reedy Acres Campus; 3rd Place Award in March of Dimes Jump Rope for Heart; FBC Water Valley Children's Choir.
- Angela Lehman** — Deanash Campus; FBC Wiggins Children's Choir.
- Kim Little** — Graduate, Mississippi College.
- John Paul Norman** — Deanash Campus; FBC Wiggins Youth Choir.
- Bobby Pomeroy** — Farrow Manor Campus; Friendliest, Honor Roll, and Participated in 1995 Track Program at Independence High School.
- Eddie Pomeroy** — Farrow Manor Campus; participation in Band, Independence High School.
- Buddy Salers** — Dickerson Place Campus; Citizenship Award Mullins Elementary
- Miranda Spooner** — Reedy Acres Campus; Received certificate for Perfect Attendance. Received certificate for Jump for Heart; Received a Pink Ribbon for being in School Chorus; Received certificate for participation in Bible Drill at FBC Water Valley. Plays softball on the Odd Fellow Rebecca Team as hind catcher; Karate (White Belt); sings with the young musicians at FBC Water Valley & sang a solo. Will attend the Young Musicians Camp in June.
- Wesley Watts** — Dickerson Place Campus; Mullins Elementary.
- Gene White** — Reedy Acres Campus; Karate; FBC Water Valley Children's Choir; Water Valley Softball player.
- Pam White** — India Nunnery Campus; Completed High School Equivalency Exam; Plans to attend Hinds Community College Barber School in the fall.
- James Williamson** — Dickerson Place Campus; Graduating Senior, Brookhaven High School; Honor Roll; Entered 8-weeks Basic Training in Army National Guard, Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

**Mary Johnston, Unit Director**, Extended Care has been a member of The Baptist Children's Village staff for 5 years. Mary worked on our India Nunnery Campus as a Social Worker prior to moving to her current position. Mary will be receiving her 5-year service pin in an upcoming staff gathering. Thank you, Mary, for all you give!

As cottage life supervisor Mary is currently in great need of single female Child Care Workers who can live in the cottages with BCV young people. Prior experience is not necessary. Ladies who are in good physical and mental condition and are interested in such a position will receive training. Mary has adequate male staff at this time, but has a real need for ladies who are willing to care for troubled children and teens. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry to children, contact:

Peggy Taylor, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027; (601) 922-2242.



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# Mississippian's SS lesson helps OKC class cope

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Less than two weeks after a bombing tragedy left 167 people dead and scores injured, Willetta Heath was asked to teach her senior adult couples Sunday School class at Exchange Avenue Church in Oklahoma City.

When she saw the lesson title for Sunday, April 30, she knew it was a gift from God.

"Sharing One Another's Pain" appeared in the Convention Uniform Series quarterly, **Sunday School Adults**, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Written by Marianna Albritton, an adult Sunday School teacher at Big Level Church, Wiggins, it focused on how God comforts his people in times of tribulation

through his Word, his presence, and his peace.

"When you prepared the lesson... you had no way of knowing what a comforting and relevant lesson that would be for my Sunday School class," Heath wrote in a recent letter to Albritton. "God surely must have been leading you in this as I am aware that the lessons are planned and written two years in advance.... It was just what our class needed to help us search our hearts and share our pain."

The pain was especially real for Heath and her husband Paul, a psychologist for the Veteran's Administration. He had been working in his office on the fifth floor of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

when the explosion occurred.

"His office was located on the south and west end of the building and that is the part where the floor held when the bomb blew out two-thirds of the floors for all nine stories," Heath said.

"God's arms were around him. He was not in his private office, but in an adjoining office that had a cement block wall. As he was standing next to that wall when the blast blew through, the force had to go around the wall and he was uninjured."

After climbing over the debris, Heath helped some injured co-workers down the five flights of stairs and out of the building. He then stayed at the scene to help others.

Several of the Heaths' friends and many of their acquaintances were among the 167 who died.

"We have each been trying to deal with this violation of our lives and I wanted you to know that your writings were very helpful," Heath wrote in her letter to Albritton.

That was encouraging news to Albritton, who said a computer malfunction caused her to lose the entire lesson manuscript only days before it was due to editors.

"I had to retype the whole thing," she said. "At the time, I thought, 'This is so hard. Is it really worth all this effort? Will it really help anybody?'"

"As a writer, you just never know what kind of impact you will have. It was staggering to see how God used it. This is the most wonderful thing that could have happened."

In the lesson, Albritton shared how God comforted her during her mother's lengthy illness and even-



Joe Richardson (right), psychologist from Nacogdoches, Texas, surveys damage to First United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, with Lance Gutteridge, associate pastor. The church, located across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, suffered extensive damage in the April bombing. A portion of the facility was used as a temporary morgue. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

tual death and how she has since been able to help others facing similar circumstances.

"God comforts us; then he

allows us to comfort someone else who is hurting," she wrote. "To share others' pain and to comfort them is a source of joy."



**KEEPING BALANCE THROUGH CHURCH** — Oklahoma City police officer Kent Harville kneels with his daughter Allison at a street corner where persons left flowers, cards, and stuffed animals near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Allison asked to visit the site after learning that Mary Ann Fritzler, who taught her Sunday School class at Quail Springs Church last year, was among those killed in the bombing.

## Pastor's Conference voices Christ "High and Lifted Up"

ATLANTA (BP) — More than 13,000 pastors and their spouses enjoyed a season of inspiration during the 1995 Pastors' Conference at the Georgia Dome, a structure known more for gridiron clashes than spiritual confabs in Atlanta.

The June 18-19 conference,

focused on a "High and Lifted Up" theme, preceded the opening of the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22.

"I am here to encourage you, to tell you there is a reason to be encouraged despite the extreme difficulty you may be facing,"

John MacArthur said. "We need a vision of the glorified Christ."

MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, Calif., told the conference: "We need the Lord high and lifted up so we can get things in perspective.... We are called to minister in a sense of awe, of reverence, of holy fear."

The future of the United States is contingent upon Christians proclaiming Christ high and lifted up, Fred Luter warned.

"I believe America's greatest problem is she's suffering from a severe case of spiritual malnutrition," said Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans.

"And the only remedy, the only antidote, the only hope is for the church to stand up and be the church and lift him up and proclaim the name of our Lord and Savior to a dying world."

Evangelist Junior Hill from Hartselle, Ala., said the times demand the gospel be preached in season and out of season. "Sometimes the man of God looks at things too carefully and misses what God is doing — seemingly more interested in Barna (a public

opinion researcher) than the Bible," Hill said, cautioning an obsession with the winds of opinion often brings discouragement.

"When it is a good time, a good opportunity, and a good occasion, and when it is not a good time or a good opportunity or a good occasion, the gospel should be proclaimed," Hill said.

Johnny Hunt, elected as president of 1996 Pastor's Conference, said: "It is my prayer that Jesus will continue to be lifted high."

Hunt is pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga. Bob Pittman, of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, was elected as the conference's vice president.

Elected secretary-treasurer was Paul Childress, Concord Church, Granite, N.C.

### Preaching conference offers added platform

ATLANTA (BP) — A crowd of 300 to 400 heard words of encouragement and calls to spiritual holiness and servanthood during the "Building His Church" Preaching and Worship Conference, June 18-19 at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

The meeting was held simultaneous to the Pastor's Conference to give a national platform to "great Southern Baptist preachers" who do not have such an opportunity to preach before one, said Don Letzring, conference coordinator.

Letzring, pastor of the Wellwood Church, Tampa, Fla., said the SBC Pastors' Conference was created originally "to represent the wide spectrum of preaching in the Southern Baptist circles. But in the past dozen years or so, leaders of the Pastors' Conference have chosen to narrow" the spectrum of preaching, he said.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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EBBG QSXYHBRPBH OV FNB RSPB SL CST  
RSSEOV LSY FNB KBYDQ SL SXY RSYT UBHXH  
DNYOHF XVFS BFBYVWR ROLB.

UXTB FABVFQ-SVB

This week's clue: R equals L.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Ten: Four.

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